

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1-3 and 7. These sheets, which include Figures 1-3 and 7 replace the original sheets including Figures 1-3 and 7.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 are now pending. Claims 1, 5, 9, 11, 12, 15, 17, 19, and 20 have been amended. Support for the amended claims can be found in the specification. No new matter has been introduced.

Examiner objected to Figures 1-3 and stated that these figures should be designated by a legend such as "Prior Art." Figures 1-3 have now been amended to include legends. Figures 1 and 6 were objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include reference characters not mentioned in the description. Applicants have corrected the specification to include the omitted reference characters. Also, Examiner objected to Figure 7 as being so dark that the features shown therein could not be ascertained. Accordingly, Applicants have filed a replacement sheet for Figure 7. Applicants respectfully request Examiner reconsider and withdraw his objections to Figures 1-3 and 7 in light of the previously described amendments.

Claims 1, 11, and 12 were objected to because of informalities. Applicants have amended claims 1, 11, and 12 to correct inadvertently introduced typographical mistakes.

Claims 1, 11, 17, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for having insufficient antecedent basis for certain features. Claims 1, 11, 17, and 20 have been corrected.

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have amended claims 1, 5, 9, 11, 15, and 19 to correct typographical errors. Applicants submit that claims 1-20 now comply with 35 U.S.C. §112. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No 5,404,037 to Manley ("Manley"). Claims 11, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,293,331 Hart et al. ("Hart"). Claims 3 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manley. Claims 13, 15, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over

Hart. Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hart, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,168,335 to D'Arrigo et al. ("D'Arrigo"). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims in light of the amendments and following remarks.

The cited references, alone and in combination, fail to discuss or suggest each and every feature of the present invention as claimed. As an example, claim 1 recites, in part, "a tunnel window provided in a stripe configuration, the stripe configuration disposed within a portion of the gate dielectric layer, the portion of the gate dielectric layer being of a second thickness, the second thickness being less than the first thickness, wherein the stripe configuration extending across an entire length of the first cell region from a first field isolation oxide region to a second field isolation oxide region." Nowhere do the cited references discuss or suggest these features as claimed.

Examiner relies on Manley's tunnel oxide layer 30 as showing these claimed features for a stripe configuration. Examiner states that "... the tunnel window is labeled 'tunnel oxide' in figure 15 and is shown in figure 9 for example, as being in a stripe configuration 30," (Office Action: p. 8-9). However, tunnel oxide layer 30 is not provided in a stripe configuration that extends across an entire length of a cell region from a first field isolation oxide region to a second field isolation oxide region as claimed. Hart also fails to discuss these claimed features. For example, Hart's tunnel oxide stripe 24 is formed parallel to the field oxide regions (20) as clearly shown in Hart's Figure 8, and thus it too does not extend across an entire length of a cell region from a first field isolation oxide region to a second field isolation oxide region as claimed.

D'Arrigo, cited for the purpose of allegedly showing that each cell is isolated from all adjacent cells by field oxide regions, does not cure the aforementioned deficiencies of Manley and Hart. Accordingly, claim 1 should be allowed for at least these reasons. Claims 2-10, which depend from claim 1, should be allowed for at least a similar rationale as discussed for claim 1, as well as the additional features they recite.

Claim 11 recites, in part, "the stripe portion traversing across an entire length of the first cell region from a first field isolation oxide region to a second field isolation oxide region, the stripe portion includes a tunnel window for a memory device." Neither Manley nor

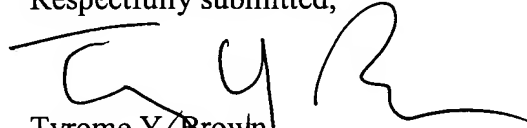
Hart discuss or suggest this feature, and D'Arrigo does not cure their deficiencies. Accordingly, claim 11 should be allowed for at least these reasons. Claims 12-20, which depend from claim 11, should be allowed for at least a similar rationale as discussed for claim 11, as well as the additional features they recite.

CONCLUSION

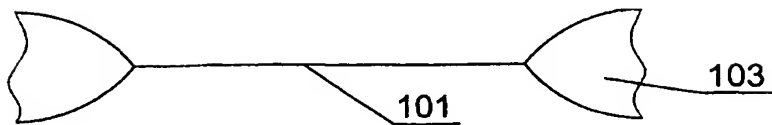
In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attachments
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FIG. 1 (Prior Art)

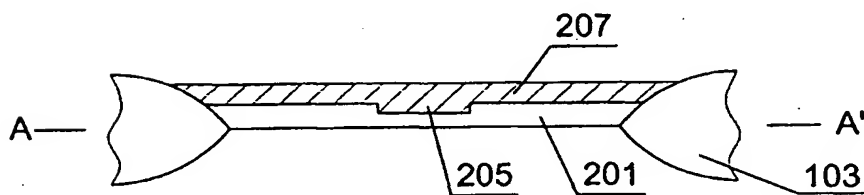


FIG. 2 (Prior Art)

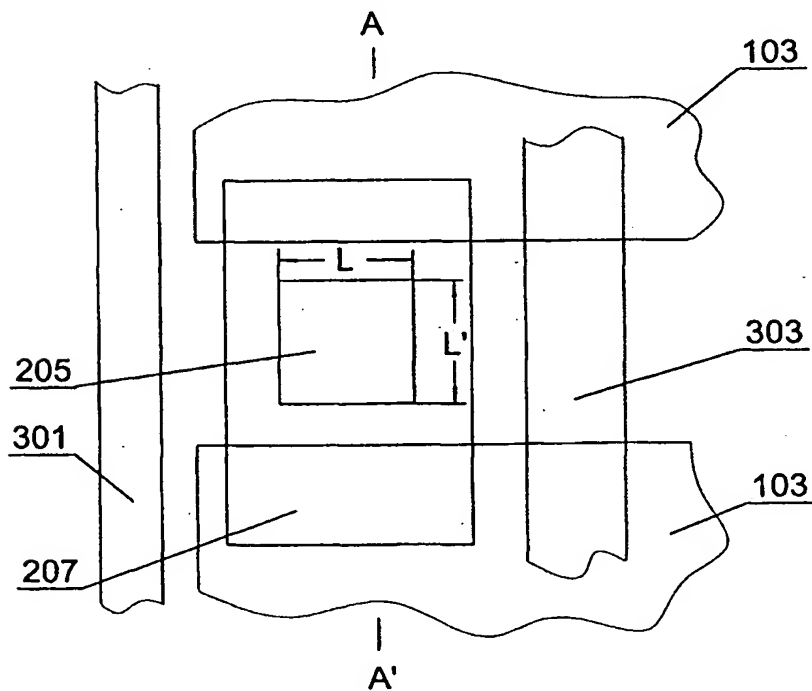
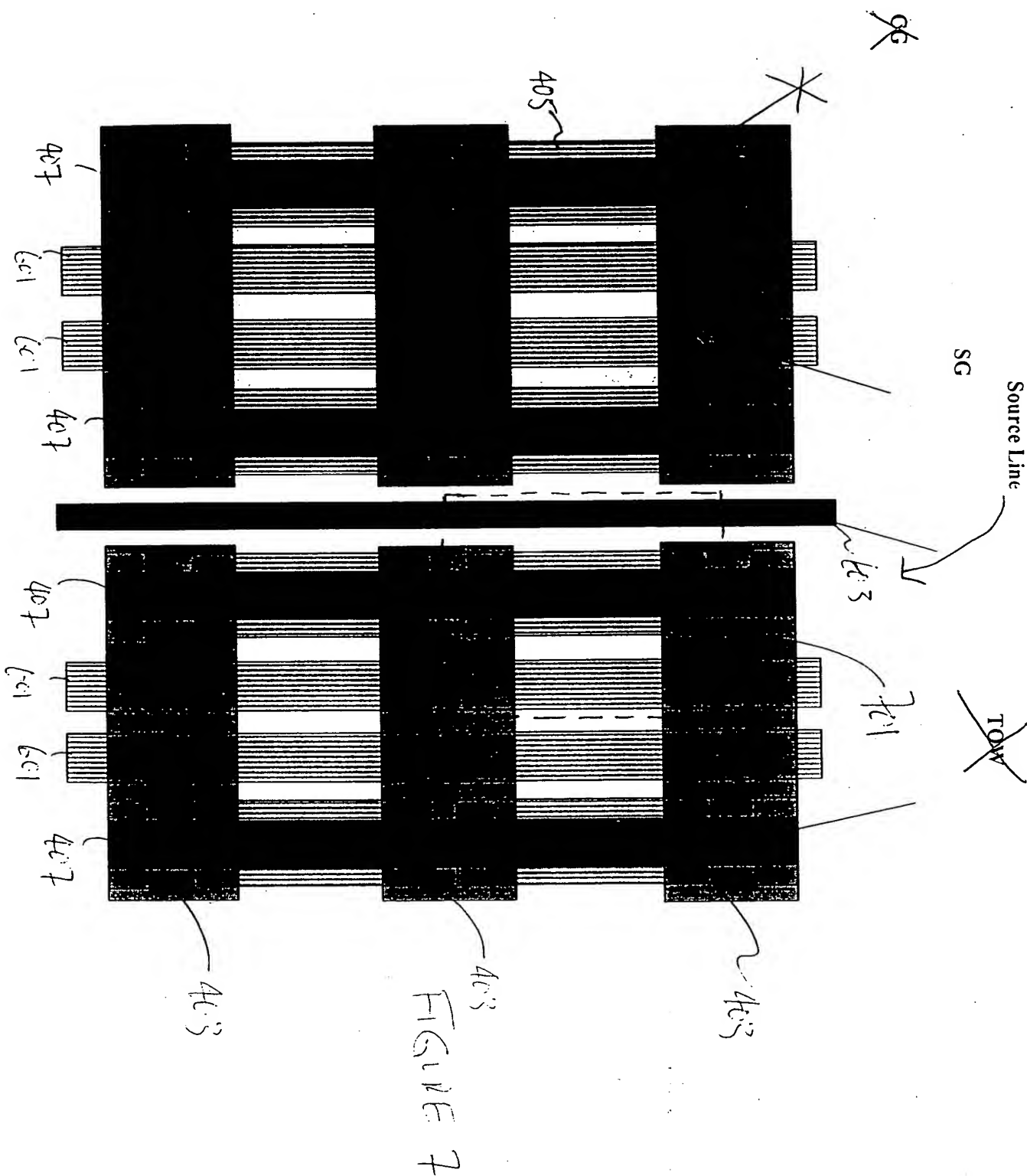


FIG. 3 (Prior Art)

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